

II. RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Claim 16 has been canceled and claims 14, 17, 18, 75, 77, 99, 104 and 105 have been amended to even more particularly point out and claim the subject matter of the claims. Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-15, 17-19, 21-45, 47-54, 56-60, and 64-105 are pending in the present application.

A. Minor Informalities in the Claims

Claims 75 and 77 have been amended to address the minor informalities noted in the Office Action. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

B. The 35 USC § 112 Rejections

Claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16 in order to provide antecedent basis for “said lens assembly housing”. Claim 16 has been canceled, and claims 17 and 18 have been amended to depend from claim 15, to accommodate the incorporation of the limitations of claim 16 into amended claim 14. Claim 99 has been amended to even more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of this claim. Each of claims 104 and 105 have been amended to recite “wherein said lens assembly is positioned in a linear light path of an optical block” to provide antecedent basis for “said optical block” in these claims. Claims 14, 99, 104 and 105 are therefore allowable, as are the claims dependent therefrom. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

C. Conclusion

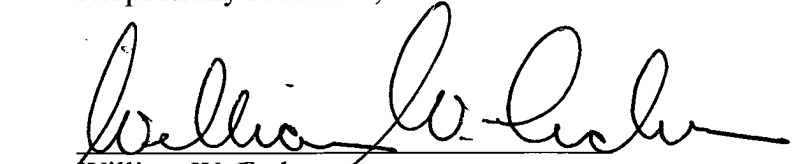
The pending claims have been shown above to be allowable over the cited references. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and claims is courteously solicited.

No fees are believed to be due, however, should any fees under 37 CFR 1.16-1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205/COVI:004.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3), the Commissioner is authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.126(a) to be timely, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time, and the Commissioner is authorized to deduct any requisite extension of time fees under 37 CFR 1.16 to 1.21 from Deposit Account No. 10-1205/COVI:004.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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